

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

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1. (Currently Amended) A method of rendering a graphical component of a web page on the display of a computer, the computer having an appearance manager adapted to render a graphical component upon receiving a request for the graphical component, comprising:

~~requesting, by the web page, receiving a web page request for a graphical component to be rendered on the display;~~

~~determining whether a defined theme META tag is present in the web page, the defined theme META tag providing an indicator related to a defined theme, the defined theme being defined within the appearance manager and comprising a set of appearance characteristics including at least parts information and location information for the graphical component; and~~

~~routing the rendering request for the graphical component to the appearance manager if the defined theme META tag is present, wherein the appearance manager assigns themed appearance characteristics in accordance with the defined theme to the graphical component and renders the graphical component on the display.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the graphical component being requested and rendered is a control and the set of appearance characteristics additionally comprises state information indicating a state of the control.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the theme META tag can be set to indicate whether a themed appearance is desired, and wherein the rendering

request is routed to the appearance manager if the theme META tag is set to indicate a themed appearance is desired.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising:  
determining, if the theme META tag is set to indicate a themed appearance is desired, whether the web page has specified cascading style sheet properties;  
if cascading style sheet properties are specified, determining whether the specified properties are one of a number of predetermined properties desired to be ignored; and  
applying only those cascading style sheet properties that are not one of the predetermined properties to be ignored.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising rendering the requested control utilizing a standard look that is not themed by the appearance manager if the theme META tag is not present.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising rendering the requested control utilizing a standard look that is not themed by the appearance manager if the theme META tag is set to indicate that a themed appearance is not desired.

Claims 7 and 8 (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of requesting a rendered graphical component for a web page on the display of a computer, having an appearance manager adapted to render a graphical component according to a defined themed appearance upon receiving a request for the graphical component, comprising:

requesting, by the web page, a graphical component to be rendered on the display; and

utilizing, by the web page, a defined theme META tag, the defined theme META tag providing an indicator related to a defined theme, the defined theme being defined within the appearance manager and

comprising a set of appearance characteristics including at least parts information and location information for the graphical component,

wherein the defined theme META tag routes the rendering request for the graphical component to the appearance manager, and wherein the appearance manager assigns themed appearance characteristics to the graphical component and renders the graphical component on the display.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the graphical component being requested and rendered is a control and the set of appearance characteristics additionally comprises state information indicating a state of the control.

✓ 11. (Currently Amended) A method of rendering a graphical component of a web page on the display of a computer, the web page being hosted by an application, the computer having an appearance manager adapted to render a graphical component upon receiving a request for the graphical component, comprising:

~~instantiating, by the application, a web page;~~

~~requesting, by the web page, receiving a web page request for a graphical component to be rendered on the display;~~

determining whether a defined theming flag is set by the application, the defined theming flag providing an indicator related to a defined theme, the defined theme being defined within the appearance manager and comprising a set of appearance characteristics including at least parts information and location information for the graphical component; and

routing the rendering request for the graphical component to the appearance manager if the theming flag is present, wherein the appearance manager assigns themed appearance characteristics to the graphical component based on the defined theme and renders the graphical component on the display.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the [requested control] graphical component being requested and rendered is a control and the set of appearance characteristics additionally comprises state information indicating a state of the control.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:  
if the theming flag is not set by the application, determining whether a defined theme META tag is present in the web page; and  
routing the rendering request for the control to the appearance manager if the theme META tag is present, wherein the appearance manager assigns themed appearance characteristics to the graphical control and renders the control on the display.

14. (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:  
determining whether the web page has specified cascading style sheet properties;  
if cascading style sheet properties are specified, determining whether the specified properties are one of a number of predetermined properties desired to be ignored; and  
applying only those cascading style sheet properties that are not one of the predetermined properties to be ignored.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising rendering the requested control utilizing a standard look that is not themed by the appearance manager if the theme META tag is not present.

16. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:  
if the theming flag is set by the application, determining whether a defined theme META tag is present in the web page and set to indicate that a themed appearance is desired; and  
routing the rendering request for the control to the appearance manager if the theme META tag is present and set to indicate that a themed

appearance is desired or if the theme META tag is not present, wherein the appearance manager assigns themed appearance characteristics to the graphical control and renders the control on the display.

17. (Original) The method of claim 12, further comprising:  
if the theming flag is set by the application, determining whether a defined theme META tag is present and set to indicate that a themed appearance is not desired in the web page; and  
if the theme META tag is present and indicates that themes are not desired, rendering the requested control utilizing a standard look that is not themed by the appearance manager.

Claims 18 and 19 (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) A method of rendering a graphical component of a web page on the display of a computer, the computer having an appearance manager adapted to render a graphical component upon receiving a web page request for the graphical component, comprising:

~~requesting, by the web page, a graphical component to be rendered on the display;~~

determining whether the web page has specified cascading style sheet properties;

if cascading style sheet properties are not specified, determining whether a theme style is specified in the web page, the theme style providing an indicator related to a defined theme, the defined theme being defined within the appearance manager and comprising a set of appearance characteristics including at least parts information and location information for the graphical component; and

routing the rendering request for the graphical component to the appearance manager if the theme style is specified in the web page,

wherein the appearance manager assigns themed appearance characteristics, in accordance with the defined theme, to the graphical component and renders the graphical component on the display.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the graphical component being requested and rendered is a control and the set of appearance characteristics additionally comprises state information indicating a state of the control.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, further comprising rendering the requested control utilizing a standard look that is not themed by the appearance manager if the theme style is not selected.

23. (Original) The method of claim 20, further comprising rendering the requested control utilizing the cascading style sheet properties if they are specified, rather than routing the request to the appearance manager.

Claims 24 and 25 (Cancelled)

26. (New) A system for rendering a graphical component upon receiving a request for a graphical component to be used in an application, the system comprising:

a theme dynamic link library containing basic information about graphical components relevant to a theme, the basic information including at least graphical component location information and graphical component part information;

a fusion component for operating between the application and the theme dynamic link library and between the application and operating system dynamic link libraries and for selecting an appropriate dynamic link library for rendering; and

a theme manager for interacting with the theme dynamic link library to render the requested graphical component in accordance with a theme defined within the theme manager.

AB 27. (New) A computer readable medium having computer executable instructions for:

determining whether a defined theme META tag is present in a web page request for rendering of a graphical component, the defined theme META tag providing an indicator related to a defined theme, the defined theme being defined within the appearance manager and comprising a set of appearance characteristics including at least graphical component parts information and graphical component location information; and

routing the rendering request for the graphical component to the appearance manager if the defined theme META tag is present, wherein the appearance manager assigns themed appearance characteristics in accordance with the defined theme to the graphical component and renders the graphical component on the display.